



INFORMATIVO ASPAT-CEDET

◆ **One step forward every year!** ◆

ASPAT – Association of Parents and Friends for Supporting Talent
Newsletter

English Version

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The 20th Anniversary Special Edition

What is CEDET ?

The **Potential and Talent Development Center (CEDET)** is a special education center created by Zenita Guenther in Lavras, MG, Brazil, in 1993. Its main goal is to cultivate the proper physical and social environment for complementing and supplementing educational support to the gifted and talented student. CEDET is run by the Lavras School System with technical and civil responsibility delegated to the Association of Parents and Friends for Supporting Talent (ASPAT). At present, there are close to 500 gifted students age 7 to 17 enrolled at CEDET from eleven Municipal Schools, eight State Schools and two private schools, plus a group of students from nearby communities brought in by their families.



20 Years Contributing to Education in Lavras

Students with special educational needs are ever more present in the regular classroom, and authorities from various fields of study have been analyzing how teachers deal with such a challenge.

In order to provide support to these teachers, the municipal government of Lavras has been investing in Special Education Centers, such as CEDET and CENAV, to attend adequately to the particular needs of each special group.

CEDET plays an important role to assure that the assistance provided to gifted students in the Lavras Municipal System will be well structured in its own methodology, and prepares its own staff of facilitators to develop the activities with their gifted students.

I here by congratulate CEDET for these 20 years of contribution to Special Education in our School System, strengthening even more our ties of mutual collaboration and development.

Cláudia das Neves V. Lopes Carvalho
Secretary of Education in the Municipality of Lavras

Editorial: Four lustres of Memories...

Without wandering – since a newsletter has no room for that – I can't help feeling a strong emotion thinking of these 20 years fully lived... Within a larger framework perhaps this time might seem small, but it is a pretty good number of years for a complex organization such as CEDET to keep active, attentive, always on the move, following its own motto - "One step forward each year".

Where to start from? Maybe 1971, at the beginning of APAE in Lavras together with my sister Zenilvia and a group of parents seeking help for their disable kids, among them the Rotarian Jose Alves who also had an exceptional brother. At his initiative, 20 years later in 1991, the Rotary Lavras Sul promoted a dinner party in homage to our "pioneerism"... at that party, among smiles and flowers, I found myself thinking of other neglected children: the able, gifted, talented ones... Nine months after, in 1992, (time of a pregnancy!), comes Dr. Fred to me very decided – Let's start with the gifted!

As a first move, the Rotarians invited key-persons in Education to talk around this subject. Of 50 invitations 4 people showed up... Were we disappointed? No! Four is more than zero! Mainly since among them was a school inspector – Maria Adélia Possato – who asked for a talk at the schools in her district... other school principals also wanted to have a talking in their schools... and so we got on with the classroom observation to collect our first data and in few months we had spotted in our schools about 300 children showing signs of higher ability as compared with their peer group. CEDET was thus planned.

...then there was one more year of "waiting" for the elections... the new government... Finally in June 1993 the City passed the Law N. 1004, establishing the CEDET in Lavras, with full support from Professor Maria Olympia, Municipal Secretary of Education.

In 1994, we had the First Gifted Educators Encounter to get support for preparing the facilitators; this event brought an unexpected number of 300 people from all over Brazil to Lavras. In 1996, Luzimar Camoes from the Ministry of Education came to the Second Encounter, became enthusiastic about CEDET, and "in 1998 the Brazilian Ministry of Education (MEC) acknowledged CEDET as a National Reference". In 2000 we had in Lavras the Fourth Encounter, with 700 educators from all states of Brazil. We were going at full speed!

But... in 2001, after 9 years of steady work, enjoying peaks of production and confidence... there were problems with City Hall... and in 2003, with changes at MEC, a "theory of supergiftedness" was officially adopted, outlawing CEDET at the federal level. Fortunately, (thanks to GOD!?) we received support from local governments and municipal systems, which ultimately hold most of the community roots.

And so CEDET goes along: growing, studying, sharing whatever is learned, getting stronger and branching out throughout Brazil. As we said last May in Brasília, we will remain "outlawed", because abiding by the present legislation implies conducting an educational process with little scientific basis, "following one theory", in detriment of the knowledge being built by the Education.

So 20 years have passed in CEDET... filled with good memories, many friendly faces, much laughing together... much study and work, some tears and teeth grinding... But our children – as we wish for all children and youth in our country – do get at least one chance to develop their high potential, their abilities, their gifts... here at CEDET. Congratulations! A big bear hug for all of us.

Zenita Guenther

Timetable

1992/1993: Planning, raising community awareness; first collection of observation data in schools, recruiting and preparing the first group of facilitators; official birth of CEDET.

1994: First National Encounter; organizing CEDET's physical home; CEDET integrated to the UFLA Extension Program.



CEDET on 1993 and First National Encounter (1994)

1996: Second National Encounter; exchange program with Purdue University (USA); extending the program to rural schools.

1998: Presence on the First International Conference on Gifted Education in Brasília; CEDET is acknowledged as a national reference in the area by the Ministry of Education (MEC); validity research for the identification process (funded by FAPEMIG).

1999: Third National Encounter, part of the First Municipal Education Conference of Lavras; exchange agreement between UFLA (CEDET) and Portugal (ESE Paula Frassinetti).



Choir of CEDET's Fifth Anniversary on Rosário Church (1998) and volunteer Paulo Alves (Paulinho do Piano)

2000: Fourth National Encounter – ASPAT and SEESP-MEC: with guests of all Brazilian states; publishing by Vozes Editor the book "Developing Ability and Talents – A Concept of Inclusion", CEDET's education process presented and analyzed.

2001: Agreement with Minas Gerais State Education Secretary to include high school students into CEDET; starting UFLA/FAEPE course to prepare specialists in the area.



CEDET's Facilitators (2000) and Fourth National Encounter



CEDET's students on the 51st General Encounter (Tiradentes-MG, 2000) and the 55th General Encounter (EPTV de Varginha-MG, 2001)

2002: Fifth National Encounter; Founding in Lavras the Brazilian Council for Giftedness – ConsBraD (recreated in Brasília in 2003 as Conbrasd); Separation of CEDET from the Municipality – emergency vinculum to ASPAT. Moving to new housing.

2003: CEDET official return to the Municipal Secretary of Education.



CEDET's old houses (1994-2002 and 2003-2005)

2005: Beginning S-Laropa, a joint ASPAT/European Union exchange program involving Brazil (CEDET), Slovakia (Keric), Norway, Portugal (in Europe), plus Chile and Peru (in South America). Also starting EVS for youngster (18-25) for one year exchange in European countries – Slovakia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Romania and Italy.



Exchanges S-Laropa I on Slovakia (2005) and S-Laropa III on Norway (2007)

2008: Sixth International Encounter celebrating 15 years of CEDET, with famous keynote speakers Joan Freeman (England) and François Gagné (Canada).



September 7th and Theater activity (2007)



Trip to Poço Bonito with Slovak volunteers and Sixth International Encounter (2008)

2010: Seventh International Encounter in Poços de Caldas.

2011: Eighth International Encounter celebrating the 18th CEDET's anniversary. Publishing by UFLA Editor Z. Guenther's book "Paths to Develop Ability and Talent", presenting CEDET's methodology.

2012: Starting PRAFACE (Special Program for Preparing Facilitators for CEDETs).

2013: Ninth International Encounter celebrating the 20th CEDET's anniversary (in September).

Memories...

Former Alumni

Giovanna Cândida (teacher and CEDET facilitator):

"Congratulations CEDET, after all, 20 years represent days of struggle and perseverance on us, and we represent the fruits of your work, that with joy and satisfaction thanks you today and always for all the trust and dedication throughout your existence deposited in children, that today, as adults, pay tributes that represent our love and gratitude".

Gleiciane Silva (Undergraduate on Administration in Fadminas): *"In addition to the gained knowledge, nowadays I carry on me the great vision of the world that CEDET has given to me as well as the experiences I have gone through".*

Jean Costa (Teacher, bachelor in Letters, UFMG):

"CEDET not only gave me the opportunity to learn English, but the chance to teach it as well. If I am a teacher today – profession that I love – I owe it to CEDET".

Joana Reis (Bachelor in Information Systems, PUC):

"CEDET is part of my history, has enabled me to have sense of direction and focus in order to achieve my goals. Nowadays I realize how CEDET has been important to my development, both personal and professional: this has been a relationship of eleven years as a student and two years as a volunteer. I would like to congratulate those who somehow contribute to this success, and continue to change the lives of many children and adolescents as it has changed mine!"

Laís Costa (Undergraduate on Public Administration, UFLA): *"A very important contribution to me was the opportunity to have greater interaction with organizations such as UFLA and experience to participate in the exchange S-Laropa V".*

Marcos Coelho (Engineer of Embraer):

"So many good things of CEDET stayed on me! So much knowledge, solidarity and citizenship. There I learned to believe more in my abilities".

Mayron Cardoso (Student to complete high school):

"Seven years ago started my CEDET's story, a story that every day makes me wonder how much better I could get being there".

Nayara Silva (Undergraduate Administration, UFLA):

"Thanks CEDET for being part of my story, to make us see beyond what we could see, for showing us that we can make a difference, we can still dream!"

Patrick Ferreira (Undergraduate on Management, UFLA):

"I feel honored to be part of this story. I hope these 20 years to multiply and this work continues in its readiness of always".

Raphael Alex Silva (Student):

"I found talent in myself on various forms of art, which still actively practicing".

Shirley Teodoro (Lawyer, bachelor from UNIS):

"CEDET have more than one important role in my story, from it many pages of my life have been and are being written".

Yasmin Andrade (Undergraduate on Laws, Unilavras):

"While most people tried to impose the path I should follow, CEDET gave me the opportunity to try a bit of everything and so discover what activities I really felt happy to do".

Families

Maria de Lourdes Oliveira: *"To CEDET, I only have to be thankful, for it has been and remains being a landmark to the experience of my daughters".*

Vera Lúcia da Silva: *"For the life of my daughter Sarah, CEDET has been a great help, both in social life and in her personal life. Only came to sum".*

Fruits of Hope

Bernardete de Oliveira Mota
First Coordinator of CEDET

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope" (Lam. 3:21)

In this period of celebration that marks 20 years, I cannot avoid look back to the time when there was a need to explore new paths, since there is much to be discovered when it is open to the discoveries.

Having worked in CEDET, in principle, was undoubtedly gratifying. It was an experience to search for a meaningful education that would lead to build bridges, break down barriers, bringing people together, solve problems, supply shortages. Fighting battles against prejudices of the uninformed who believed the most capable did not require different educational experiences, normally not afforded by the regular school. It was also building a solid learning, all together, around a table, acquiring knowledge, forging bonds of living.

Thus, the challenge of providing opportunities for gifted children to develop their own potential was eagerly won by a team, even shy, but willing to take risks, always guided by the precious tracks of our major orientator, Dr Zenita C. Guenther, who as an eagle saw far and already envisioned what we were trying to imagine as a could be, as a possibility.

20 years ago the seed was planted. It germinated, sprouted, grew ... and as you can see! It has already borne fruit, hope for a better world, more humane and sensitive to the beauties of life. It was worth it! Congratulations CEDET!

Making dreams come true

Shizue Inoue,
First President of ASPAT

Years ago I was given the great honor of being the first ASPAT's president, that now presents itself as a serious and prestigious Association, consolidated by the work of many people, which I am proud to be part of.

It was a long journey, and this endeavor I could, by Dr. Zenita, learn more about the "gifted child", which is the focus of CEDET, and understand the indispensability of the participation of family members of these children for their better development.

With hard work, in 1994 we could formalize ASPAT, we named it, registered and elaborated its first statute. Many people hand in hand with me made possible the realization of this dream.

I was voted as the first president and I remained in office for four consecutive years which enabled me to be an active part to diffuse the concept, understanding and capacity of the "gifted child". There were numerous meetings with parents, work with teachers, a struggle for the acquisition of materials, goods and public awareness.

Today, looking back, I see that all the time spent worth it. With a feeling of accomplishment is that I take the opportunity to thank God for the strength and inspiration, the parents and CEDET's staff by the constant work, and my family for their understanding and support, especially to my husband for the love, encouragement and companionship.



PRAFACE

Programa de Preparação e Aperfeiçoamento de Facilitadores do CEDET

Among its statutory objectives, ASPAT has the mission of "organizing Potential and Talent Development Centers throughout national territory", which requires specialized personnel. In 2012, ASPAT Technical Board installed the Program of Preparation and Improvement for CEDET Facilitators (PRAFACE), which gives an *improvement certificate bearing professional recognition* without academic degrees. For more information, see ASPAT's webpage.



On November 13th, 2012 ASPAT promoted a reunion with CEDET students who were finishing high school. Participants were able to remember various moments through out many years of living and also enjoyed a delicious barbecue. We wish much success to our alumni in this new stage in their lives, keeping always standing out positively.

Assisted Observation 2013

On February 23, the students signaled by schools in the previous year were invited to the Assisted Observation session, which it is proposed to provide support to facilitators so that they can complete the process of identify the areas of potential of each student.



First Encounter of Continuing Formation the Professionals of Education



This event promoted by the municipality with the theme "A School for All – the Challenge of Inclusion" on March 25-27th was attended by CEDET's team, with lectures by Dr. Zenita Guenther and coordinator Josiane Carvalho, plus a workshop with volunteers Fábio Henrique dos Anjos and Felipe P. Abreu.

Parents Meeting

(March 12th, 2013)



As has been held annually, ASPAT invited the parents of students who began the intervention in CEDET this year to an important meeting, aiming to place them aware of the rights and duties as new ASPAT members, as well as the appropriate methods and strategies to the better guide their children.

The Internal Assistant Meeting

(April 15th, 2013)



Each school has has an Assistant Internal participating in CEDET student's educational project. This year, the meeting was attended by Dr. Zenita Guenther and Vanda Perdomo, coordinator of the Special Education Department of the Municipal Education of Lavras.

Award "Best Ideas of the Year"

CEDET received in late 2012 the "Best Ideas of the Year" award by Idea Brasil Publicidade agency as one of the five best ideas in Lavras in the Education category.

According to the agency view, the choice for the award was made through a market survey by UFLA Jr. Management Consulting. The UFLA Jr. team conducted a survey of people involved with the press, public and advisory communications to select nominees in each category. Then, a questionnaire was submitted to the population of Lavras, including students, businessmen, and Lavras residents in general. A sampling of about 470 interviewed people was made.

European Voluntary Service

In 2012, our volunteer Waldelaine Dominic worked for a year in the Czech Republic through the EVS program of the European Union.



"I worked on a project with physically and mentally disabled people, with household work and monitoring. I also had the opportunity to visit other European countries, studying languages and experiencing different cultures. A unique experience that made me grow spiritually, increased self-esteem and made me believe that anyone can make their dream come true".

Public Hearing in Brasília

In May, Dr. Zenita Guenther was one of the guests who attended Public Hearing on "The Politics of Special Education to Students with High Abilities / Giftedness", of Chamber of Deputies' Education Commission in Brasília, at the invitation of APAHS/DF. On such occasion, CEDET's founder contributed with the expertise and scientific data to the debate on public policies of Special Education in the country.

CEDET's Pedagogical Areas

Following its basic philosophical orientation and theoretical framework, the CEDET as an Educational Center is organized in three content areas which undertakes the organization of its activities: CITEC (Science, Research and Technology), CORH (Communication, Organization and Humanities) and CRHEX (Creativity, Skills and Expression). In 2012 there were 143 group and individual activities developed at CEDET. To conduct such activities this year, we had 85 volunteers who worked with the diverse chosen themes, or helping CEDET and ASPAT in other tasks.

Communication, Organization and Humanities' Area

This area focuses on the experience of *inter-personal* interactions, aiming to work on living experiences with different people, social interactions, and togetherness sense. The world gains greater significance for the individual through events involving other human beings with whom he shares his life on this planet, at this historic moment. Under this dimension, the human being developing task takes into account the experience, knowledge, understanding, communication, interaction, group organization and harmoniously living with other people who live, have lived, or will live in our World [GUENTHER, 2006].



Explode English
(Amanda)



Join Us
(Diego)



Time Tunnel
(Geovani)



Managing...
(Felipe)



In April 2013, the group "Press and Media" conducted a survey of thirty people interviewed on topics related to Brazilian problems. Our survey indicated that the majority of respondents believe that the security and education situations are the biggest challenges in the country, while the public health service had improved in recent times. Our group concluded that society should have more participation in discussions on these issues, so that better results can be achieved.



Turism (Rotunda of
Ribeirão Vermelho)



Absolute English
(Lucas)

"Volunteer work with humans and especially with children and adolescents requests a greater donation, especially in service quality. It is (or was) a duty and responsibility to give, share, 'teach', show, suggest, look at any topic that addresses a holistic study intending to show the various stages of the 'thing' treated".

Julián Mauricio Agredo Hoyos, (PhD in Agronomy and Plant Pathology), our volunteer in Spanish language

"Being a volunteer at CEDET allowed me to share my knowledge with children interested and intelligent, to know dedicated and selfless people and to remember the happy years of my studies. It is with happiness that I prepare and give lessons. Being active after retired, an activity very different from my profession is extremely rewarding".

Maria José Granate, (PhD in Genetics and Improvement), our volunteer in French language

"When I was invited to join in CEDET's volunteering group, I grasped this opportunity to somehow retribute all of the blessings given to me by God. Since then, this challenge has brought lots of joy through the contact with idoneous people in a pleasant and harmonious environment. I really like to share my knowledge with students willing to assimilate it, and I have this feeling that not only do I teach, but also learn a lot from them".

Arquimedes A. Camisão Neto, our volunteer in English language.

Creativity, Skills and Expression Area

You, volunteer instructor, is a key person in the methodology of CEDET, because it has the task of encouraging and developing meaningful learning. Be welcome to our team, whatever your personal and professional experience be. We regularly count every semester with you, leading activities in group, in pairs, trios, or individuals, within the subject, theme or area of your own interest. And you are seen as a model and admirable person for every child who passes through CEDET, helping them to grow and flourish. The gifted children demonstrate autonomy, curiosity and an archive of information and within the area of Creativity, Skills and Expression they may take part on the following interests:



Body and Movement *Right Double* A bit of everything **ON SECOND VIEW** The Interior on Exterior Staging Be What One Is Not **Nuances** Wellness **Identity in Motion** *Fish on the water* **Chords and Harmony** *Point and Line* Tones e Sounds Water and Motion The Colour of Tone View and Create *Creating on the Sound* *Balance* **Traces and Lines** Hands on Art *Freestyle Swim* **Imagination in forms**



Interior on Exterior



Nuances



Freestyle Swim



Wellness



Body and Movement



A bit of everything

"You volunteers, hundreds of hands and minds working years and years with these hundreds of children, are the one who allow the doors be open, suggesting paths, modeling qualities by example, and helping these young people to be professionals, leaders, scientists, artists, citizens who occupy our place in the succession of generations" [GUENTHER, 2010, Orientation Guide for Volunteers].

Science, Research and Technology Area

"The area of Science, Research and Technology deals with the general context in which we live, in search of understanding and build an internal frame of reference to approach the world. The main goal is to focuses on opening doors to the world of scientific knowledge..." [GUENTHER, 2011]. To the area goals be achieved, we rely with cooperation of the volunteer instructor, who guides the group and is seen as a model and inspiration, a person deeply interested in what he does and on the life he shares with others. We invited some of our supporters for a brief statement.



"The opportunity to work as a volunteer at CEDET has been a unique experience in my life because I have learned a lot from the students and I feel they also demonstrate interest in the proposed activities".

Deborah Carvalho – PhD in Chemistry, UFLA – Activity **Alchemy**



"On seeing me with students of various ages, different perspectives and questions immediately I thought, 'what now?'. But soon the end of the first meeting with the group, I realized that for curiosity there is no barriers, just need willingness. Seeing with the eyes of students the fascination to discover how to solve everyday problems through engineering, creating logical and simple solutions by not just rationalizing the task, but also feeling it... is priceless to see the students' satisfaction when completing a task before unknown, and now held materialized".

Luiz Gustavo Silva Braga – Graduate in Civil Engineering, UNILAVRAS – Activity **Building the Future**



"Being a volunteer in CEDET is something very special, a very pleasant environment. On arrival already feel a great peace, be on the side of people happy makes us happy too. I say that in CEDET the stress of everyday life is forgotten, because the students who go there have a different willingness to learn, gain new knowledge, this makes the we also be always looking for new ways to conduct the studies".

Antônio Pedro – Professor of Mathematics, Activity **Mathematics**



"Teaching always has been a dream for me, however when I had the willingness to do part of the volunteers of CEDET, I had in mind the question: how teach Chemistry to these boys so young such way that all could absorb the knowledge? I saw that group of age and knowledge so varied, but all with curiosity in gaze. So, my answer came soon on the first lesson: I realized that actually whom was learning was me".

Meryene de Carvalho Teixeira, Masters Student in Chemistry, UFLA – Activity **Sciences in Action**



CEDET – UNILAVRAS: A Successful Partnership



The UNILAVRAS always seek quality and professionalism in teaching, research and extension, and having the student as a key element, is concerned to serve all who need this institution, keeping its doors open to the entire community of Lavras, offering what is best. In partnership with CEDET the UNILAVRAS provides teachers, staff and laboratories that can contribute to the academic and personal for each student. Right now happen these activities: **"ANATOMY FOR ALL"**, where students learn more about the workings of the human body; **"FIRST AID"**, where students learn techniques and immediate care to victims of injury or sudden problems, **"CIVIL ENGINEERING"** where students acquire basic knowledge of construction. The UNILAVRAS, with this partnership, hopes to contribute to the personal and professional development of each individual involved in the projects, offering everyone the opportunity to hone in on different areas of knowledge.



Anatomy For All



First Aid



Civil Engineering

78th General Encounter: Inhotim – Institute of Contemporary Art and Botanic Garden

(August 9th, 2012)



The CEDET's 78th General Encounter took place in the city of Brumadinho (MG), where is located the Institute of Contemporary Art and Botanical Garden of Inhotim. There were 43 students from public and private schools of Lavras, who could interact and contemplate the natural beauties of the place. On the gardens trails, students sharpened their senses, discovered the wonders of the botanical collections and discussed the conservation of the environment. Inhotim also held large collection of works by artists such as Hélio Oiticica, Yayoi Kusama and Adriana Varejão, all them of wonderful creativity.

Volunteer's Party 2012

(December 4th, 2012)

"Every semester there is a number between 50 and 70 volunteers from community working with CEDET's children on the most diverse learning experiences, living and interaction. So is the community that ensures a good level and variety of experience, diversity of themes and pedagogical quality, which would be impossible to achieve otherwise" [GUENTHER, 2011: 118]. As a way to sincerely thank them, the ASPAT hosted a festive gathering in the hall of Victoria Palace Hotel with significant presence of guests and also an artistic presentation of our students.



ASPAT & CEDET on Internet:

If you want to know more about our work and the last news, take a look at:

ASPAT/Lavras Homepage:

<http://www.aspatlavras.com.br>

CEDET/ASPAT Blog:

<http://cedet-aspatlavras.blogspot.com.br>

CEDET on Wikipedia:

<http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedet>

CEDET on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/cedet.lavras>

The Everyday of CEDET and ASPAT



*Josiane Carvalho &
Stael Maria Patto*

In addition to the work done in CEDET, facilitators actively participate in the activities of ASPAT, and four team members are part of the board of the association. The role of the facilitators in ASPAT involves participation in monthly meetings where activities and events to be held are announced, discussed, planned and evaluated. Another form of involvement of CEDET staff in ASPAT is seen on fundraising from community; such resources are reinvested in educational materials used by the children and youth served by CEDET, the acquisition of necessary goods to the combination, and the holding of events.



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